Patent
Attorney Docket Number 6218-3

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1) A computer-implemented method for providing online participation in a live auction, the method comprising:

transmitting over a computer communications network a description of a piece of property to be auctioned and a real time video image of a scene depicting a live auction of the property;

receiving a bid for the property via the computer communications network;

presenting the bid to an auctioneer; and

transmitting a notification of a winning bid.

2) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising transmitting a video image of the property.

3) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising calculating a highest bid received via the computer communications network and presenting the highest bid to an auctioneer involved in auctioning the property.

4) The method of claim 3 wherein the presentation of the highest bid to the auctioneer is accomplished with an electronic display.

5) The method of claim 3 wherein the presentation of the highest bid to the auctioneer is accomplished via a surrogate bidder.

6) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising capturing real time video images of multiple scenes depicting the live auction; and

making the multiple real time images available via the computer communications network.

7) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of verifying the financial credibility of a bidder submitting a bid.

8) The method of claim 1 additionally comprising:

tracking multiple auctions with corresponding images and bids;

processing a bid is received for a particular property; and

transmitting the bid to a corresponding auction house server.

Patent
Attorney Docket Number 6218-3

9)   A computer system for providing online participation in a live auction, the system

comprising:

a computer server accessible via a computer communications network, wherein the server

comprises a memory and a processor;

a multimedia device capable of inputting scenes from the live auction into the server; and

executable software residing in the server memory wherein the software is operative with

the processor to:

cause a scene input by the multimedia device to be transmitted over the

communications network;

receive a bid via the communications network; and

transmit a notification relating a winning bid via the communications network.

10)   The computer system of claim 9 wherein the software is executable on demand via the

network access device.

11)   The computer system of claim 9 wherein the network access device comprises a

computer.

12)   The computer system of claim 9 wherein the computer communication network conforms

to the transmission control protocol/internet protocol.

13)   The computer system of claim 9 wherein the computer communication network

comprises an intranet.

14)   The computer system of claim 9 additionally comprising a WEB interface for accessing

the executable software stored on the server storage medium.

15)   A computer system for managing online participation in multiple live auctions, the

system comprising:

an auction host computer server accessible via a computer communications network,

wherein the auction host server comprises a memory and a processor;

an auction house computer server for communicating with the auction host computer

server via the communications network;

a multimedia device capable of inputting a scene from a live auction into the auction

house computer server; and

Patent
Attorney Docket Number 6218-3

executable software residing in the auction host computer server memory, wherein the
software is operative with the processor to:

cause a scene input by the multimedia device to be transmitted over the
communications network;

receive a bid for an auctioned property via the communications network; and

transmit the bid to the auction house server.

16) The computer system of claim 15 wherein the multimedia device is a video camera.

17) The computer system of claim 15 wherein the software is additionally operative with the
processor to transmit a notification of a winning bid.

18) The computer system of claim 15 wherein the software is additionally operative with the
auction host computer server to calculate a highest bid received for an auctioned property
and transmit only a currently highest bid.

19) The computer system of claim 15 additionally comprising a display screen for displaying
bids received for a particular property to a bidding crowd involved in the auction of that
property.

20) Computer executable program code residing on a computer-readable medium, the
program code comprising instructions for causing the computer to:

transmit a description of a piece of property to be auctioned and a real time video image
of a scene depicting a live auction of the property over a computer communications
network;

receive a bid for the property via the computer communications network; and

transmit a notification of a winning bid via the computer communications network.

21) The computer executable program of claim 20 wherein the program code additionally
causes the computer to:

track multiple auctions with corresponding images and bids;

calculate a highest bid received for a particular property; and

transmit the highest bid to a corresponding auction house server.

22) A user interface for participating in a live auction, the interface comprising:

Patent
Attorney Docket Number 6218-3

an electronic display connected to a network access device and multiple display areas defined on the display, wherein various scenes depicting a live auction are displayed in the various areas.

23)   A computer data signal embodied in a digital data stream, wherein the computer data signal is generated by a method comprising the steps of:

transmitting over a computer communications network a description of a piece of property to be auctioned and a real time video image of a scene depicting a live auction of the property;

receiving a bid for the property via the computer communications network; and

transmitting a notification of a winning bid via the computer communications network.

23)   The computer data signal of claim 23 wherein the data signal is generated by a method additionally comprising the steps of:

tracking multiple auctions with corresponding images and bids;

calculating a highest bid received for a particular property; and

transmitting the highest bid to a corresponding auction house server.

24)   A computer data signal as in claim 23 wherein the signal generated adheres to the transmission control protocol/internet protocol.